

*Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released the following statement regarding the budget deal struck by congressional leaders and President Obama late last week.*

"The budget agreement reached by the President and congressional leaders may prevent a shutdown of the federal government, but it ensures a continued shutdown of the middle class and working Americans. While it's good that vital programs like Head Start were spared from the huge cuts initially proposed by the Republican majority, I am disappointed that devastating cuts elsewhere disproportionately affect middle class and working families, while requiring no sacrifice from large corporations and the very wealthiest.

"Instead of cutting subsidies for big oil, it cuts subsidies for renewable energy. Instead of cutting tax breaks for the rich, it cuts heating assistance for the elderly and food aid for new moms through WIC. Instead of closing tax loopholes for companies that ship jobs overseas, it cuts the Small Business Administration, which helps employers here at home. It takes police off the beat with cuts to the COPS program, and put kids on the street with cuts to education.

"While I opposed a government shutdown, I had hoped we could arrive at a balanced deal that put middle class families first. Instead, by eliminating key investments in long-term economic growth and job creation, this budget will weaken our economy, thereby cutting revenues and, in turn, increasing our deficit. This is a bad deal for Main Street Americans who have already borne the brunt of the economic downturn created on Wall Street. I'll be voting against it."